

**Texas Immunization Stakeholder Working Group Meeting  
Criss Cole Rehabilitation Center, Austin Texas  
February 17, 2011**

**Participants \*Denotes first time attendees\***

Adam Beauchamp, Texas Pharmacy Association\*  
Alicia Long, Brownwood- Brown County Health Department  
Amelia Flores, Hays County Public Health Department,  
Ana Lerma, Bell County Health District\*  
Andrea Legnon, DSHS Immunization Branch ImmTrac\*  
Andrea Stricklin, Merck Vaccines  
Angela Craig, GlaxoSmithKlien Vaccines  
Anita Colbert, Tarrant County Public Health  
Anshu Bohra, DSHS Volunteer Immunization Branch  
Barry Lachman, Texas Association Health Plans  
Becky Jacks, GlaxoSmithKlien Vaccines  
Beth Fitzgerald, Bell County Health District  
Beth Null, Parent  
Bianca Parr, Pfizer Vaccines  
Brad Bracken, Sanofi Pasteur Vaccines  
Carol Davis, DSHS Infectious Control Disease Unit  
Catherine White, Pfizer Vaccines  
Cherri Schmidt, Hays County Public Health\*  
Chief Clint Ishmael, Cleburne Fire Department  
Clark Petty, San Antonio Metropolitan Health District  
Claudia Himes-Crayton, DSHS Family Planning\*  
Coleen Christian, Austin Travis County Health Human Services District  
Dan Walters, Dan Walters and Associates  
David Barker, Novartis Vaccines  
Debbie Tucker, Austin Travis County Health Human Services District\*  
Debra Edwards, DSHS Preparedness and Prevention  
Delia Garza, Hidalgo County Health and Human Services  
Dennis Wiesner, HEB Stores\*  
Donna Reiszner, Meningitis Angels\*  
Dr. Ari Brown, Texas Pediatric Society, Guest Speaker \*  
Dusty Warden, Immunize El Paso  
Eileen Smith, GlaxoSmithKlien Vaccines\*  
Elizabeth Bruns, DSHS Women Infant Children's Program\*  
Emily Babcock, Texas Medical Association  
Estella Garcia, DSHS Immunization Branch  
Frankie Milley, Meningitis Angels  
Isabel Hargrove, Austin Travis County Health Human Services District  
Ishah Coleman, DSHS Immunization Branch  
Jack Sims, DSHS Immunization Branch Manager  
Jacque Walker, Waco McLennan County Public Health District  
Jeff Erp, DSHS Immunization Branch\*  
Jennifer Smith, Texas Association Local Health Officials\*  
Jim Bates, Dan Walters and Associates  
Jodie Hohertz, Brownwood Brown County Health Department  
Julie Roberts, Cleburne Fire Department

Justin Kerr, DSHS Immunization Branch \*

Karen Hess, DSHS Vaccines Services Group Manager

Karen Reagan, Walgreens Pharmacies

Kate Alfano, Texas Association Family Physicians

Katherine Hathaway MD, Texas Association Family Physicians \*

Kathryn Johnson, DSHS Immunization Branch

Kathy Cavin, Austin Travis County Health Human Services

Keith Cunniff, Pfizer Vaccines

Kristin McElroy, DSHS Immunization Branch \*

LaTasha Hinckson, The Immunization Partnership

Laura Lerma, Texas Nurses Association

Laura Leslie, GlaxoSmithKlien Vaccines

Lee Lane, Texas Association Local Health Officials \*

Lesley Meyers, Safeway, Randall's Tom Thumb

Lillianne Goeders, DSHS Children with Special Health Care Needs

Lola Davis, DSHS Immunization Branch\*

Lorena Elias, Austin Travis County Health Human Services District\*

Lori Koehler, Medimmune Vaccines

Luis Valenzuela, Austin Travis County Health Human Services District\*

LupeM Garcia, DSHS Public Information Education Training Manager

Mark Ritter, DSHS Immunization Branch CDC Federal Advisor

Mary McIntosh, DSHS HIV

Maurine Moore, The Immunization Partnership

Melonee Carter, Office Eliminating Health Disparities, HHSC

Neil Levy DO, Texas Osteopathic Medical Association

Nelda Mendez, Hidalgo County Health and Human Services

Pat Cook, Dallas County Health and Human Services\*

Patricia Keck, Laredo Independent School District\*

Paul Sanders, Merck Vaccines

Paula Jimenez, Sanofi Pasteur Vaccines

Peggy Gibbons, Texas Association Community Health Centers

Reece Patterson, Sanofi Pasteur Vaccines

Rekha Lakshmanan, Merck Vaccines

Sandra Hermosa, San Antonio Metro Health

Sarah Kirk, DSHS Immunization Branch

Sharon Skaggs, Methodist Health Care Ministries

Shelia Tucker, DSHS Immunization Branch

Shyla Delp, Austin Travis County Health Human Services District\*

Stacy Schweitzer, Williamson City County Health District

Susan Belisle, DSHS Immunization Branch

Tammy Foskey, DSHS HIV

Terri Andrews, Immunization Coalition Tarrant County

Thomas Colbert, Medimmune Vaccines

Thomas Colvin, DSHS ImmTrac Group Manager

Tim Hawkins, DSHS Infectious Disease Prevention Section

Tina Gibson, Bell County Health District

Tommara Scroggins, Dallas County Health Human Services\*

Tony Aragon, DSHS Immunization Branch

Vivian Harris, DSHS Immunization Branch

### TISWG Minutes February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2011

Legend: CDC, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; DSHS, Texas Department State Health Services; HHSC, Texas Health and Human Services Commission; HIV, Human Immunodeficiency Virus; ImmTrac, Texas Immunization Vaccination Registry.

## New Member Orientation- Tim Hawkins

Tim Hawkins, Infectious Disease Prevention Section, conducted the orientation. Over 20 first time TISWG attendees participated.

## Meeting Called to Order

Mr Dan Walters welcomed everyone and reviewed the planned agenda for the day. He also presented additional logistics pertaining to the meeting and facility. Everyone introduced him or herself, and identified which city and organization they represented. Mr. Walters invited all participants to provide any updates or corrections to the previous meeting minutes of November 4, 2010. With no corrections, the minutes are accepted and will post as written.

## Adult Immunization Registry - Thomas Colvin

Mr. Colvin announced that all the necessary changes recommended from the past legislative session pertaining to ImmTrac has been adopted. These changes included the implementation of business processes technology that took from 6-8 months to install and will now accommodate adult vaccine input. The current strategies for the lifetime registry are actively striving to reach the 370,000 seventeen year olds that will age out of the registry at their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. A strategy planned with the Texas Education Agency, TEA, is reaching 14-18 year olds through coordination with TEA and the Texas Independent School Districts, which began last year. A joint TEA/DSHS initiative entitled blue ribbon internship will assist with the outreach plan to aide in the populating of the lifetime registry. Efforts are now focused to educate providers on the importance of this new aspect of the registry and benefits it will hold. New education materials are in production and will be available to stakeholders within the next 6 weeks. DSHS will announce when these materials are available and participants are encouraged to contact the program with any questions they may have. A short question and answer period followed. Mr Colvin also announced from the last meeting Mr Sims invited stakeholders to bring their shot records to be included in the lifelong registry He introduced Ms. Coleman as the next speaker to provide directions to this input.

## Enrollment into Adult Immunization Registry - Ishah Coleman

Ms. Ishah Coleman provided additional process information on how the adult registry input would be made today. She introduced newly hired ImmTrac staff and an intern that will be processing the participants' health records. Questions from stakeholders continued and both Thomas Colvin and Ishah Coleman were able to address them. In particularity, how will adults enroll into the lifetime registry? Will enrollment be accomplished through health plans? Will it be incumbent on the providers to inform the parents of 18 year olds about the lifetime registry?

Answers to these questions followed. Mr. Colvin stated that the branch is hoping that health plans will have a positive solution and would help the department explore a process to populate the lifelong registry. In response to the legislative mandate to educate parents of 18 year olds about the registry, Mr Colvin stated that school nurses already has information to provide to 17 year olds that would be graduating and aging out of the system. Additional questions followed: has ImmTrac accepted records from Tarrant County. No, not at this time. However, interoperability discussions are being arranged. Hopefully this occurs within the next 6 weeks. In addition, Health Level 7 (HL7)\* data portions are tested and is hoped to have implementation within the next 6 weeks. How would you input information if we cannot found adult records that may be lost? At this time we are not able to process on verbalization alone, however it is beneficial to start a registry on every adult. It is recommended to start with what you do have. By a show of hands, the audience was polled as to who bought their vaccine records to be input into the lifelong registry. Nearly one third of the audience responded. Ms. Coleman instructed the participants to complete the consent, gather their documents and place in a white envelope that will be collected by staff and place their names on their envelopes which will be returned by the end of the day. At the close of the meeting, all participants' documents collected were returned with a confidential record and personal ID number assigned to them. Over 40 % of attendees entered their information into the Adult Lifelong Vaccination Registry. For those who did not participate today, they are invited to send their information confidentially to the Immunization Branch for input later. For more information on ImmTrac, please visit the ImmTrac web page at [www.ImmTrac.com](http://www.ImmTrac.com).

\*HL7 Health Level Seven International (HL7) is the global authority on standards for interoperability of health information technology with members in over 55 countries . HL7 provides standards for interoperability that improve care delivery, optimize workflow, reduce ambiguity and enhance knowledge transfer among all of our stakeholders, including healthcare providers, government agencies, the vendor community, fellow SDOs and patients. "Level Seven" refers to the seventh level of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) seven-layer communications model for Open Systems Interconnection (OSI) - the application level.

## The Flu Season - Carol Davis, Jack Sims

Ms Carol Davis provided a power point presentation on the Influenza Update 2010-2011 Season. Ms. Davis' presentation spoke on various aspects of reported Flu and flu like symptoms in Texas this season. There had been numerous inquiries of circulating flu viruses in addition to reported Flu breakthrough. Please see attached presentation for detailed information provided. This discussion led the interactive session. Jack Sims provided additional information on the community vaccinators, employee flu clinics, and TVFC vaccine supply. Per table interactions, participants discussed how the flu season affected their outcomes. What were successful projects that supported the community immunity in their areas? Successful activities were reported for example non-profit organizations in the city of Dallas were very successful in utilizing their available doses of vaccines. In 2009, 1.9 million doses were administered to Texans. It is reported considerably higher doses for this same period in 2010. Participants were asked to discuss how they could best use this information just received. Please see discussion comments to this topic added to the addendum.

## Immunization Branch Updates - Jack Sims

Mr. Sims provided information on the Immunization Branch. Please see handout attached. He began with discussing funding for vaccines and the increase costs experienced this fiscal year. Some American Recovery Reinvestment Act, ARRA public health funds were utilized to alleviate the high dollar cost of \$12 million. The legislative session is in progress and will end May 28<sup>th</sup>. March 11<sup>th</sup> is the last date for bill filing. There were also brief discussions of the anticipated budget reductions. The House has completed their reductions but still has to take into account vaccine funding, business operational funding and the ImmTrac interoperability grant. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention funding is expanded through December 2011, all other ongoing projects funding was expanded through December 2012.

Other highlighted topics of discussion were a brief review of proposed bills, exceptional items affecting immunizations, back to school preparations and the anticipated continuation of the adult safety net for vaccinations.

## Current Topics: Open

Frankie Milley of Meningitis Angels presented their latest marketing video on Meningitis. Ms. Milley thanked TISWG members for the ongoing contributions they have made. Meningitis Angels provided marketing and educational materials to interested participants free of charge.

## Communication with Vaccine Hesitant Parents - Dr Ari Brown \*<sup>1</sup>

Mr. Jack Sims introduced Dr. Ari Brown, a local pediatrician and national spokesperson with the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Texas Pediatric Society.

Dr. Brown acknowledged that it was an honor to be speaking to Texans and in particular to TISWG. She thanked the stakeholders for their active participation as advocates for vaccination. She began by telling her personal story of her passion for the health of children. At an early age she remembered her mother asking their pediatrician when was there ever going to be a vaccine for chicken pox. Having raised four children in which three had contracted the illness, Dr. Brown did not, she often wondered why. As history would have it, she became a poster child for the vaccine while she was in medical school. She recounted caring for a senior resident in ICU having suffered exposure to chicken pox, sepsis and death.

A mere five months after that experience the vaccine was manufactured. Dr. Brown is therefore convinced that it is so very important to keep parents informed and educated about the importance of vaccines.

---

\*1 Dr Ari Brown, M.D., FAAP a local pediatrician is a trusted voice for children's health, pediatric health expert for WebMD, the medical advisor for Parents Magazine and spokesperson for the American Academy of Pediatrics and Texas Pediatric Society. She is the coauthor of the best-selling "411" series, and is well respected in television print, having appeared She has appeared on numerous national news and talk shows including NBC's Today Show, CNN, Rachael Ray and Dr Oz.

Dr. Brown's presentation was both interesting and informative. She spent a little time speaking of how parents are getting a lot of information from many different sources, and often times have very little time to seek the guidance from their pediatrician or other reliable sources. Parents are also bombarded with information that when they finally do get to their physicians they may be deterred away from vaccination, refuse to vaccinate on time, or complete the vaccine series, or choose not to vaccinate their children at all. As advocates, she states we must keep parents informed and educate against notions that vaccines cause harm, that diseases no longer exist and my child will not be exposed to these diseases. She suggests to use what we do know when talking with parents. Certain qualities are an absolute must when speaking to parents. She lists being compassionate, not scolding in our approach, listen to parents concerns, be a great communicator, try to establish relationships before the baby is born, practice what you preach, especially if you are a health care provider. She also emphasized to have correct information and be able to direct concerned parents to additional reliable resources. These are teachable moments when so many fearful topics are expressed by well known personalities. Parents and teens will not have all the information that you do. More advocates are needed and parents make great advocates. Parents, mothers and fathers will listen to other mothers and fathers; this is the only way the spread of misinformation will cease. Dr. Brown also shared her most recent experience on the Dr. Oz show discussing the controversial topic of Autism. Several questions and answers followed. Participants asked if she could return at a future TISWG meeting. The presentation was excellent and very well received. For more information, please see the attached handout "Clear Answers & Smart Advice about Your Baby's Shots".

### Texas Coalition Updates - Jacqueline Walker, Jodie Hohertz

Ms. Jacqueline Walker of the Waco McLennan County Coalition introduced the coalition members present today. She discussed the make up and progress the coalition as made thus far. The coalition began in June 2010 as a new grant recipient and has made great strides in building a strong community collaboration. Specific goals and strategies for implementation over the next four years were presented in detail. Please see PowerPoint presentation attached. Planning meetings have increased a core group of members who have constructed realistic goals and approaches. Facilitated meetings have explored barriers to elevated vaccination coverage levels in their county. They have collaborated with Texas Medical Association and are working on campaign materials, "Be Wise Immunize" and multifaceted education goals. They are currently finalizing their media tools for launch and seeking additional grant funding sources.

Ms. Jodie Hohertz was hired as the Brownwood Brown County Immunization Coalition coordinator. She has been active since August 2010. The first "Call to Action" meeting resulted in four or five interested partners in Brown County, following and invitation mail out to 190 potential stakeholders. The meeting helped identify the concerns of the community and help educate these partners about vaccinations and disease prevention. Please see attached handout for more specific details of the progress Brown County Immunization Coalition is making in their community. With active informative monthly meetings, the coalition has grown with interests in making a difference in their community and surrounding counties. They also are off to a very good start.

Mr. Jack Sims recognized two entities that have also offered to assist in coalition building across Texas. They are the Texas Medical Association and the Texas Immunization Partnerships who is offering Technical Assistance and possibly coalition grant funding in the future.

### Reminder Recall: Key Strategies to Increase Vaccine Coverage Levels-Interactive Session -All

Karen Hess provided a brief PowerPoint presentation on data information captured by a study conducted by the department on 2009. Participants divided into smaller workgroups to explore these findings. How can you use this information? See discussion results attached.

### Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) Updates - Mark Ritter

Mr. Mark Ritter provided an update from the most recent Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, held in Atlanta Georgia on October 27-28, 2010. His presentation highlighted the following topics. Mr Ritter briefly discussed new vaccine

recommendations as imposed by the ACIP. These new recommendations will include Tdap vaccination for Health Care Workers. CDC has currently revised the recommendations to vaccination for health care workers. These reviews will be an agenda item for the upcoming meeting which will occur February 23-24, 2011. Other highlights included vaccine safety pertaining to flu for children under two, adverse reactions and safety issues pertaining to Herpes Zoster vaccine. CDC announced that Healthy People 2020 have over 27 objectives totally directed towards immunizations. The nation's goals continue to be to increase vaccination coverage levels for all Americans. Please see the associated PowerPoint Presentation for details of topics discussed.

### Meeting Wrap Up - Dan Walters

Mr. Walters asked the participants what percentage of attendees today brought in their shot records for entry into the adult registry. Forty per cent of today's attendees participated. The meeting evaluation followed with these positive comments: start time, location, parking, lunch choices, and Dr. Brown's presentation, like to see what goes on outside, table circulation of attendees (mini TISWG). What needs to change for next meeting included TISWG mtg mid August is in conflict with back to school, clinics etc. Other obstacles, vacations, flu season and back to school.

### Announcements

Frankie Milley of Meningitis Angels announced a successful outreach education strategy for new parents that consisted of Tdap baby showers educating parents, friends and family about cocooning and protecting the expected newborn from VPD by getting themselves vaccinated with the adult vaccine.

A reminder for all participants to forward any corrections to last meeting minutes to Vivian Harris, Partnerships Coordinator and to retrieve their ImmTrac enrolment documents as they departed. A special thank you to those early arrivals that assisting with getting the room set up for today's meeting.

### Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 3:02 pm. The next TISWG meeting is scheduled for May 19, 2011.

DRAFT